

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT met on Monday, September 17, 2001, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, Jr., ex officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk to County Council.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and copy of Agenda of this Committee meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Chairman Spooner called the meeting to order; Councilmember Pinckney led in the invocation; Stephen and Dylan Staley of Boy Scout Troop #754, Ladson, S. C., led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Spooner stated that first on the agenda was William H. Lacey, III, Assistant Director International Trade Development, S. C. Department of Commerce, Re: Update on Economic Development within the State.

Mr. Lacey addressed Council with information from the State's perspective as to how his office ties into County efforts to create and maintain jobs throughout the State. On this date Governor Hodges announced the twelfth annual South Carolina Industry Appreciation Week and he would like to read the proclamation issued from the State House:

“Whereas, existing business accounted for \$4.8 billion, or 78% of all capital investment, and 27,924 jobs, or 79% of all new jobs, for 2000; and

“Whereas, there were 1,561 South Carolina companies that expanded in 2000, with an additional 67 new companies choosing South Carolina as home; and

“Whereas, South Carolina's industry is an integral part of the global economy exporting \$8.6 billion in goods and services to other countries in 2000, a 20% increase over 1999; and

“Whereas, South Carolina's economy continues to diversify with major investments by industries from metals and equipment manufacturing to customer service centers, pharmaceuticals to software development, paper and printing to transportation; and

“Whereas, South Carolina continues to move forward in equipping its citizens with the skill sets and knowledge-based tools necessary to attract world class producers of goods and services; and

“Whereas, citizens from throughout the state benefit from South Carolina’s existing industry through a strengthened tax base and increasing job opportunities with competitive wages.”

Mr. Lacey continued that during the next two weeks in South Carolina, communities like Berkeley County would be celebrating these astounding statistics. The contributions were not only creations of new jobs but also what their workers do on a day-to-day basis. They are active in their schools, churches and volunteer organizations. He stated it’s a pleasure to see where South Carolina is and what the future holds even though everyone is shocked by what happened recently with the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In the slowing economy, our state is poised to continue its growth. Mr. Lacey stated he was encouraged by meetings held in their offices and conversations, both with National leadership from an economic development standpoint, and with their customers around the world. Berkeley County has played a major part in South Carolina’s growth and is part of a leadership they call Team South Carolina. There is no solo action economic development, it’s a teamwork approach and they depend heavily on the local communities’ leadership to continue South Carolina’s movement forward.

Mr. Lacey stated there was a total of 50 new jobs in Berkley County while jobs created from expansions were 967. Again it shows the importance of nurturing existing businesses. In fiscal year 2000-2001, Berkeley County has had over 156 million dollars invested from existing manufacturing facilities. Names like Bayer, Gates Rubber, and countless others. Also, in South Carolina there was a 20% increase in exports last year, which was \$8.75 billion. Companies that export employ one third of manufacturing workforces. South Carolina ranks third on a per capita basis nationally as far as jobs dependent upon exporting. The Port of Charleston is an engine of that economic growth. Companies locate in South Carolina because of the Port of Charleston and they choose to stay and grow.

Mr. Lacey stated his division is the service after the sale; an arm of commerce after companies locate in the County, erect a building, or begin producing a product then they become a client. There are three basic programs provided to help create an atmosphere for growth and International trade, which is a big part of their duty. They help the companies carry their products to markets around the world. Currently, South Carolina manufactures export to 157 different markets. Last year they worked with over 130 companies and traveled with them on trade missions and shows.

Also, under his direction there is another program called a Business Services Group that uses the experiences of four retired executives from manufacturing that travel daily and meet with companies in communities, like Berkeley County, to better understand what the needs and wants are. Mr. Lacey stated that Dave Bailey of his staff contacted Supervisor Rozier to update him on which companies are being called on and to share ideas and concepts of how industries could be better served. Dave Bailey has contacted 20 manufacturers in Berkeley County this year. Collectively, there are approximately 720 manufacturers called on each year throughout the State.

The third program is a Recycling Market Development Program, which is in place to help companies handle problems with waste streams. They are all conscious of refuse going into landfills and strive to help companies with this problem so they can actually earn money as opposed to paying to have their product disposed of. They have been working to recycle tires and develop programs for rubberized asphalt. Electronic Recycling is a big part of what they do, also.

Mr. Lacey stated Berkeley County has done a wonderful job bringing new companies in but Berkeley County has also done a tremendous job in servicing the needs of existing businesses. He concluded that it has been a pleasure to work with Berkeley County's Staff and solicited questions from the Committee.

Chairman Spooner stated that it is not just the Port that has brought industry in. Berkeley County is a great County to live in and has a great government that works well with industry.

Supervisor Rozier stated the State's investment from existing industries is 78% and Berkeley County's investment from existing industries is 97.9%. The jobs in the State's existing industries is 79% and Berkeley County's is 96.9%. When the economy gets tough, the companies already in place are depended upon to make it work. Mr. Rozier continued that the county had brought in almost five billion dollars within the last 10½ years. Any investment announced next would put that number over five billion dollars.

Chairman Spooner stated next on the agenda was Berkeley County/Dorchester County lines discrepancy.

Mr. Rozier explained that about a year and a half ago Dorchester County's Administrator contacted him and indicated they thought there was a mistake in the County line in the Summerville area and that as a result the Home Depot property is split; half of the building is in

Berkeley County and half of it is in Dorchester County. He stated they asked his permission to allow the Geodetic Surveyors to resurvey the County lines and if they are wrong "let's get it right." Some months later the surveyors determined that the line was right in the Home Depot area and that the property was split by the County line but the line near Highway 27 was not right and there is approximately 2500 acres of Dorchester County that is actually in Berkeley County. They asked that he consider any options there might be and he is now seeking directions from Council. There are 125 to 150 families involved. Supervisor Rozier further explained this was Dorchester's request that the survey be done. The request was made thinking that some of Berkeley County should be in Dorchester County. If we want the 2500 acres, it's ours. If Council decides not to pursue the matter, then it would forever remain Dorchester County.

Councilmember Pinckney asked if there was a breakdown as to how many are of school age in the 150 families? Supervisor Rozier stated he did not have that breakdown nor did he know where they attend school.

Councilmember Pinckney stated that if any of them had 2500 acres of land that was due them, what would they do? Would they give it to charity or would they accept what was rightfully theirs?

Councilmember Crosby suggested Mr. Rozier notify Dorchester County that Berkeley County wants the land and Council is willing to work with them in resolving this matter.

Councilmember Vaughn asked who drew the original lines? Supervisor Rozier stated the Geodetic Surveyors drew the lines for Dorchester County at the counties combined request. He explained Berkeley County was the first County in the State; then Colleton and Craven were cut out of Berkeley County. The rest of the counties were cut out of Berkeley, Colleton and Craven. Councilmember Vaughn asked how did they go about it throughout the State? Mr. Vaughn asked, "If it's in the County we need to clear it up but if somebody created these lines and is not going to step in and make that decision, are we going to spend a lot of effort on this?" Supervisor Rozier stated they explored the possibilities of a legislative change. The Legislature cannot annex property from one County to another. Council would have to decide whether we want it or not. If we don't want it we would combine with Dorchester County and request that the County line be altered to be where they thought it was.

Mr. Stokes, County Attorney, stated the Legislature has already established the line through a property description. Most of the boundaries are established by waterways throughout the State. At the time of creation the line had been established by the Legislature. It's just a question of an error by the surveyors when the line was placed. The Legislature alone without the consent of both governing bodies of each county cannot change that line under the constitution.

Councilmember Pinckney asked if there were any significant economic benefits if Berkeley County was to acquire this land? Supervisor Rozier stated that any time there is property that's not developed along an interstate there is significant opportunity.

Councilmember Richardson asked did Dorchester County express any concern about the economy if Berkeley County were to acquire the property? Supervisor Rozier stated the biggest concern expressed were the peoples' concerns.

Councilmember Vaughn stated that in the event these people don't want to be in Berkeley County, through the legislation with Berkeley and Dorchester Counties' consent, the lines could be moved. If the 150 families don't want to be in Berkeley County a compromise could possibly be made to satisfy all parties.

Chairman Spooner suggested that Council allow Dorchester County to come back with a proposal; the Committee agreed.

Supervisor Rozier stated they could look at the opportunity for land near equal in value that is not as developed or undeveloped.

Councilmember Farley asked was the property above Highway 27 heavily populated? Supervisor Rozier responded that above Cypress Camp Ground Road the land is not heavily populated.

Supervisor Rozier asked was the Committee directing him to say to Dorchester County that Berkeley wants the County line corrected? If they want to suggest a potential compromise, then do so. Councilmember Vaughn stated they still should get input from the 150 families.

Councilmember Mims asked were the children going to Dorchester County schools? Supervisor Rozier said, "Yes, for all practical purposes they are in Dorchester County."

Councilmember Vaughn suggested a Public Hearing to solicit input from those families affected. Supervisor Rozier stated it would be up to Dorchester to notify the residents, if a public hearing was needed.

Councilmember Pinckney stated there is a little more at stake than meets the eye because there are other potentials that they are not taking under consideration.

Chairman Spooner suggested they get someone from the School Board to see whether those residents would be closer to Berkeley County schools or Dorchester County schools.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Vaughn to accept the maps of the Geodetic Surveyors. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Spooner stated that without objection she would like to address the Resolution in support of the United States of America to support and defend this great nation through act and deed in a time of great turmoil.

Supervisor Rozier read the Resolution as follows:

“WHEREAS, ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OUR GREAT NATION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CAME UNDER ATTACK BY THEN UNKNOWN FORCES OF EVIL IN ORDER TO WREAK HAVOC, MURDER OUR CITIZENS, MAME OUR FREEDOM, AND DESTROY OUR QUALITY OF LIFE; AND

“WHEREAS, OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE AS A RESULT OF THESE ATTACKS, AND;

“WHEREAS, THE MANY BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN HELPING IN THE RESCUE EFFORT OF THESE CITIZENS ALSO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN ORDER TO SAVE OTHERS, AND;

“WHEREAS, WE AS A NATION WILL STAND TOGETHER, NOT IN FEAR, BUT IN JOINT RESOLVE TO STAND ABOVE THESE DESPICABLE ACTS AND SUPPORT THIS GREAT NATION IN ITS FIGHT OVER EVIL, AND;

“WHEREAS, WE IN BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUPPORT OUR NATION’S LEADERS IN THEIR DECISIONS.

“NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BERKELEY COUNTY AND ITS CITIZENS WILL RISE TO EMBRACE OUR NATION, SUPPORT OUR LEADERS, AND HONOR THE FREEDOM THAT HOLDS OUR COUNTRY DEAR.

“ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2001.”

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Richardson to adopt the Resolution. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. (A copy of Resolution No. R 01-34 is attached to these Minutes.)

It was moved by Councilmember Vaughn and seconded by Councilmember Pinckney to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

There will be a Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday September 17, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. William H. Lacy, III, Assistant Director International Trade Development, S. C. Department of Commerce, Re: Update on Economic Development within the State.
- B. Berkeley County/Dorchester County lines discrepancy.

September 12, 2001
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk to County Council